GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4853
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
IDUKKI PACKAGE
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific allocation had been made for the programme for mitigation of agrarian distress in Idukki in the year 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the purpose of the allocation of Rs. 764.45 crores for mitigation of agrarian distress in Idukki during the year 2008;

(c) whether the Union Government had proposed any scheme for convergence of existing programmes under the Idukki package; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) to (d): 'In-principal' approval was granted by the Government of India in the year 2008 for providing financial assistance of Rs.764.45 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions suggested by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) for mitigating agrarian distress in Idukki District of Kerala. The implementation period of the package has ended in the year 2013.

The main components of the measures to mitigate agrarian distress in Idukki district of Kerala included action for reviving ecological security and strengthening common facilities, strengthening of livelihood security of the farmers with crop specific programmes and integrating animal husbandry components for income enhancement, creating rural road connectivity with remote villages, to promote agricultural marketing and improve technology and input servicing etc. Research and development component was also included for development, refinement and transfer of technology in the major plantation and food crops of the district.

The approach adopted under Idduki package was basically convergence of the benefits available to the eligible farm households under various ongoing Government schemes/programmes to improve their income and livelihood security in a time bound and sustainable manner. A multi-stakeholder 'Idukki Aiswarya Samithi' under the chairmanship to Chief Minister consisting of representatives of farming and tribal families, technical experts, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of women's organizations and mass media and 'Idukki Karma Samithi' headed by the Chief Secretary of Kerala for implementation of programmes was constituted under the Idukki package for better coordination, convergence and monitoring of the progress of implementation of the package.